

# MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

VOLUME 17.

MEXICO, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1916.

NUMBER 40.

## TOMMIE TOMKINS

Tommy Tomkins Found Guilty as Charged, But Jury Recommends He Be Released—His "Mother's Bible" and "Good" Witnesses Save Him.

(By L. ROY FERRIS.)

"Stand up," said Dr. Owl to Tommie. "Stand up and tell us your name."

"It is Tommie Tomkins, sir," began Tommie. "and I"—but Dr. Owl stopped him with a frown, and the two little bunches of feathers which most people think are horns, and from which he gets the name of horned owl, stood up straight and caused him to look so fierce. "I wish to tell you, Thomas, that when you speak to me you must say, 'Please, Your Honor,' for that is the way they do at the Court House in your town, for Bunnie Screech Owl, who often visits the town at night, told me."

"Thomas Tomkins," began Judge Owl, but just then Brownie Screech Owl slipped up to Judge Owl and whispered something.

"Search the witness," commanded Judge Owl. "Brownie Screech Owl says that is the way they do in the Court," and Bro. Coon, who really had no right to do so, for he was one of the jury, stepped forward and put his paw into Tommie's trousers pocket. You see Bro. Coon dearly loves to put his paw into places. Sometimes he gets caught by reaching for a bright piece of tin in an auger hole that has horseshoe nails in it to catch his paw.

Bro. Coon pulled out a string Tommie used to spin his top.

"What is that?" demanded Judge Owl.

"It is something like the chicken had on its feet that Bro. Coon stole from Farmer Brown," spoke up Bro. Rabbit. "Bro. Coon coughed an embarrassed little cough and continued the search, and thus addressed Judge Owl as he pulled a knife from Tommie's pocket. "Why, it's what Tommie's father used to put the lock on the parlor door—and Tommie's mother uses to open the cans of tomatoes when she can't find the can opener and it would also be used to clean one's finger nails." Tommie quickly put his hands into his coat pockets, for his finger nails had black marks around the ends that looked like he was mourning for his grandfather.

"Ah," said Judge Owl, as he noticed Tommie's finger nails, but he made no comments, and right here let me say that no matter how good a little boy may be he must keep his finger nails trimmed, or Judge Owl will see them and tell all the animals in the forest.

About this time Bro. Coon pulled a piece of candy from Tommie's pocket and quietly put it in his mouth, but Bro. Rabbit's sharp eyes saw and he made up his mind to see that Tommie got fair play.

Bro. Grey Squirrel had a high seat in a grape vine swing right over the place where Tommie was a prisoner. It had started to climb the tall elm when it was only a little slip of a vine not near as large as the ones your father set out in the grape arbor. If it had looked to see how far it had to climb to reach the top it might have given up, like the Perkins boy does when he comes to a hard lesson, but instead it had taken a hold on the tree to win just like you will win if you try, try again. It had climbed the tree and grown so strong that all the little boys in town could not put it down. So you see it pays never to give up.

At this point Brother Bull Frog began to ask questions. The Gray Squirrel acted as Tommie's lawyer. Bull Frog said he would plead his own case.

"Why didn't you shine your shoes?" asked Bull Frog. And right there Tommie resolved to never again neglect to have his shoes in good order. "I do believe," said Bull Frog, before Tommie could answer, "I do believe he has another rock in his pocket. Brother Coon, take it from him before he does some harm."

"It does make my blood boil," said Bull Frog, "to see—"

"Who ever heard of a snake or turtle, fish or frog having blood that would boil?" said Gray Squirrel. But a look from Judge Owl caused him to be still.

Bro. Coon took the object from Tommie's pocket.

"Please, your honor," begged Tommie, "take my knife, and my kite string, and my candy, and my fish-hooks but don't take that."

"Why, why, what is it?" asked Judge Owl, as each one of the jury examined it in turn.

"Can you read, Judge?" asked Gray Squirrel. After much hesitating and clearing of throat, Judge Owl read these words: "This Bible is given to Tommie Tomkins by his mother. May he always continue to be kind to everything and everybody and grow to be a good man."

By this time Brother Rabbit had real tears in his eyes, and after Brothers Skunk and Rattlesnake had testified Brother Rabbit was seen to whisper to Red Squirrel, Terrapin and Sister Possum.

"I beg Your Honor to confine the prisoner in the hollow stump jail."

## BRADLEY-SHIVA.

Happily United in Marriage in Mexico Sunday at The Home of Rev. Olin Green.

Mr. Wayne Bradley, a popular young farmer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bradley, southwest of Mexico, and Miss Julia Spiva, a popular and charming young woman of Centralia, were united in marriage by Rev. O. Olin Green in Mexico Sunday afternoon. They will make their home on a farm in the Beaver Dam neighborhood. The Message joins many friends in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Bradley long life and happiness.

## NORTH MOLINO LETTER.

North Molino, Mo., Oct. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Martin and Miss Ordie Squires were shopping in Mexico Monday. Mrs. Martin wore home a brand new set of teeth.

Mrs. Harry Heizer is quite sick. Carter Stowers while splitting a hog the other day let the maul glance hitting him on the ankle causing a very painful bruise but did not break the bone. Mr. Stowers had the same limb broken a few years ago. It has troubled him ever since.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Emmons, Oct. 24th, a son. They gave him a short name, Alexander St. Clair Emmons.

Mrs. Almer Mundy entertained Mr. and Mrs. Wm. W. Dowell of near Long Branch at dinner Sunday.

The Molino Sunday School was pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ellis and Mrs. W. W. Botts of Mexico with them. Mr. Ellis and Mrs. Botts both gave interesting talks. Come again.

The box supper and pie supper at Molino school house was well attended. A nice box of candy was given for the most popular young lady, Miss Florence Heizer. Miss Irene Henderson of Santa Fe and Miss Knoebel, the teacher of the school, were the three ladies voted on. Miss Knoebel won the box.

Nora Miller is visiting his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Forest Clements, near Norborne, Carroll county, Mo. Mrs. Clay Berry, of Mexico, is visiting her brother, J. Mundy.

Ira Maves and family visited Mrs. Maves' sister, Mrs. Frank Erdel, of near Rush Hill and Mrs. Pete Erdel, also of near Rush Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Heizer entertained Mr. Bob Montgomery and family of Mexico and Mrs. Clay Berry and Mr. and Mrs. Lawn Heizer for dinner Sunday.

Buddie Cauthorn who has been at Excelsior Springs for several days came home last Saturday. This was his second trip there. Hope he may soon improve in health.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Martin were invited to dinner with Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Sheffer, Oct. 20th, 1916, it being Mr. and Mrs. Sheffer's wedding anniversary.

J. F. Heinlen and family have moved back to Mexico from Des Moines, Iowa, whence they moved last week. Mr. Heinlen has a fine farm southwest of Mexico and he thinks he will go back to it. Glad to have these good people with us again.

L. Roy Ferris' woodcraft story in The Message this week is an extra good one. Our boy and girl readers will all be interested in how Tommie Tomkins escaped a sentence in the hollow stump jail.

While the jury was taking a vote Brother Chicken Hawk solemnly told Tommie and put him in the hollow stump jail.

"Brother Rabbit, read the verdict," commanded Judge Owl a few minutes later, and Brother Rabbit, taking a piece of burch bark from under his arm, began as follows:

"We, the jury, recommend, Your Honor, that you confine Thomas Tomkins in the Hollow Stump Jail in utter darkness, and suggest that you only give him one small bunch of black haws and a few wild grapes to eat each day for such time until the small hickory sapling shall have grown as large as the sycamore was on which Your Honor is holding court; but, whereas, we find upon questioning Tincy Field Mouse and Gentle Dove and after listening to the testimony of the Robin Family and such good folks as Sweet Mock-er and her cousin, the Thrush, that Thomas Tomkins is not only not guilty but is deserving of a great deal of credit, for did not Grasshopper and Flicker both testify to having seen him sawing wood for Old Granny Larkin, who is most a hundred years old? We recommend, Your Honor, that you turn him loose and give him the freedom of the woods, for we love that kind of a boy."

About that time Tommie felt something grab him by the shoulder, and he heard little Laura Jenkins say, "Why, bless my heart, what are you doing here asleep? Good thing brother and I came this way to rather golden rod, to decorate the school room—and we will have to hurry or we will be late."

As Tommie looked back, could he believe his eyes, there sat Old Bro. Bull Frog, and what do you think— he winked at Tommie.

## S. S. CONVENTION.

Fine Gathering at Salt River Church Sunday—Timely Talks Were Made—Big Eats at The Noon Hour.

A great meeting of Sunday school workers was held at Salt River Church, just east of Gant, last Sunday. J. S. Berry, president of the township organization, presided.

Among the speakers were W. O. Smith, L. Roy Ferris (the man who writes woodcraft stories for The Message), Miss Josephine Wallace, Miss Beulah Griffin, Rev. Rollinson, Mitchell White, C. M. Fox, and S. P. Cunningham.

A great general dinner was spread at the noon hour.

## A HAPPY SURPRISE.

A number of members of the O. E. S. had a surprise Friday eve for Mrs. F. C. Zaugg, of Colorado Springs, Colo., who is visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Beal on East Love street. The first intimation Mr. Zaugg had of the joyous event was when she was greeted at the door by about 30 people in a body, armed with mysterious looking boxes, clamoring to get in the door. The aforesaid boxes contained a bountiful supply of pickles, chocolates, coffee and sandwiches, which was the occasion for much hilarity and inward satisfaction. Mrs. W. P. Rowland, in an appropriate speech, expressed with deep feeling and closing with an original poem, presented Mrs. Zaugg with a beautiful O. E. S. emblem—a star pin of gold, inset with pearls. Mrs. Zaugg was too surprised and happy for words, but finally succeeded in voicing her thanks to the members for the gift.

The occasion was an excellent get-together meeting for the O. E. S. We wouldn't be surprised to hear soon of another member greeted with a surprise. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Van Horn, Mesdames W. F. Atkinson, John Cowherd, B. E. Sims, W. P. Rowland, C. F. Rodhouse, J. R. Thomas, T. T. Morris, J. E. Uter, Gus Steinman, W. L. Towles, B. Y. McIntosh, Misses Grace Marshall, Adelle Cunningham, Minnie Marshall, M. Mary De John, and Master Marquette McIntosh.

## HEDGE DALE LETTER.

Pie supper at Hedgesdale Saturday night, Nov. 4th. Everybody came. Chester Stuart and family spent the day with Mr. Stuart's father last week.

George Fisher and family spent the week-end with Merwyn Fisher. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barkley and Mrs. Frank Skelly spent Sunday with J. R. Snooks.

Mrs. Green from Columbia and Mrs. R. O. Fox spent Sunday with George Downs.

Quite a number attended services at the Christian Church in Rush Hill, Rally Day services. Dinner was served.

Miss Elsie Wells has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sims.

Mr. Rodgers will cut hedge for Mr. McGee this week.

Fay Cornett and John Crooks were in Mexico Thursday.

Miss Elsie Sims spent Monday with Frances Skelly.

Mrs. J. R. Snook and Mrs. Frank Skelly spent Friday with Mrs. Roy Dudley.

Edmond Witche and Deloy Downs have been setting traps. Some large muskrats have been caught.

J. R. Snook sold some shoats to Horace Mundy.

F. F. Witche sold some shoats to Otto Harper.

Examinations took place last week. Oh, dear!

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Witche and family and Miss Ruth Rouse spent Thursday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barkley.

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Witche and family and Leroy Snook spent Sunday evening at the J. W. Rouse home in Mexico.

Miss Ruth Rouse spent the week-end in Sturgeon with her sister.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Merwyn Fisher, a baby boy.

## MR. RUST DEAD.

Marshall Rust, president of the Mexico & Santa Fe Electric R. R. Co., died at his home in Kansas City last week. He had been ill for some time.

Mrs. J. B. Wisdom subscribes for The Message.

## MEXICO SAVINGS BANK

44th Year in Business  
Capital Stock \$100,000

W. W. FRY, President.  
J. R. JESSE, Cashier.

## MASKED HALLOWE'EN PARTY.

About 300 people, young and old, gathered at Tratchel Hall Tuesday night at Benton City, to attend a masked Halloween Party given by Harry Hildebrand, Bartley Arvin and Irvin Tratchel.

A decorated automobile parade was the first thing on the program. After driving through the streets of Benton City the seventeen cars took a joy ride to Mexico where they were royally received. Upon returning to the hall which was decorated with the season's colors, a large crowd greeted them.

After trying to identify each other for some time the game of guessing each other was started, and as each guess was recognized they were required to unmask. Some were too well disguised to be recognized, and were asked to remove their masks.

The fortune-tellers' booth, run by Mrs. W. H. Coil, on account of its splendid equipment and management, was well patronized. Owing to the immense crowd, only a few of the numerous games played by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Russell could be used, but all were thoroughly enjoyed.

After a good social time, refreshments which were under the charge of Mrs. Zula Dudley and Mrs. Alfred Hicks, were served.

Refreshments consisted of sandwiches, pumpkin pie and sweet cider.

After a late hour all departed for their homes, the old feeling younger and the young feeling gay.

## PRAIRIE LEA LETTER.

John Doerge was severely sick Friday with hemorrhage of the nose. He was taken to the Mexico Hospital. Frank Erdel, Jr., sold three calves to Joe Jones Saturday.

Robinson brothers bot a span of thoroughbred Clydesdale mares from F. L. Crosby.

J. R. Snook delivered three loads of hogs in Mexico Monday.

Bro. J. M. Hornback was calling in the neighborhood Monday.

F. S. Shoup has returned from a visit to his old home in Illinois. He saw a three-inch snow while absent in that State.

A Halloween party was enjoyed by a large number of young people at the J. R. Snook home Monday night.

F. S. Norris had a windmill put up on the north part of his farm first part of the week, and D. L. Rogers had one placed in his barn lot.

## LIBERTY NEWS.

(By A and B Classes.)

Mr. Neal Watts had a paralytic stroke Wednesday night last week, but is now better.

Fletcher Simms bought some sheep Wednesday at Charles Arnold's sale.

Luke Edwards is helping John Smith with his fall plowing.

Mrs. John Edwards of Benton City, has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank James.

George Byars has finished building an addition to Garl Lochridge's house.

Garl Lochridge and family and Will Ravenscraft and family spent Sunday with Mrs. Sam Bise.

Misses Mattie Dodd and Nannie Weidler and Messrs. Holbert Dodd and Cecil Weidler of Beaver Dam attended our box supper Saturday night and remained over Sunday with Miss Blanche White.

Miss Marion Roberts from Columbia is visiting her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Frank James.

Jim Watts had a paralytic stroke Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Pullis and children of Centralia visited Mrs. Edwards of Mexico Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. S. H. Bise expects to ship a car load of goats soon.

Miss Elizabeth Woods has been visiting her cousin, Mrs. Cal Barnes, and family.

Judge Smith has finished building two new rooms to his residence, and they are now cozyly situated until they can rebuild their house that was burned last summer.

Mr. Hartman of Auxvasse has purchased the 25 acre farm from Mr. Hobbs and recently moved to it.

Messrs. Barnes, Morris and Shaw are rebuilding the telephone line in this vicinity.

Our box supper October 21 was well attended and we took in \$15.

Will Ravenscraft and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harvey at Thompson Sunday.

Delegates from Kansas City and Jackson county will come to the State Sunday School Convention in Mexico next week in a special car.

## BARTELS-ROBERTS.

Two Splendid Young People Joined in The Holy Bonds of Matrimony Last Week.

Mr. John Bartels, one of Mexico's very best young men, and Miss Alva Roberts, a prominent teacher, the accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Roberts of this city, were joined in wedlock in Mexico on Wednesday of last week, Rev. A. A. Wallace of the Presbyterian Church officiating. They will reside on the groom's farm near De Soto, Jefferson county, Mo., leaving here for their new home only a few minutes after the wedding ceremony had been said. A host of friends here extend them congratulations and very best wishes.

## JACKSON LETTER.

The beauty of the October woods is passing; but the tang of the Autumn is still in the air.

We are sorry to lose Miss Gladys Foster from our school. She will be in Mexico for the winter, with her grandmother and attend school there.

We are glad to welcome Miss Julia Kesler back to the school; she has been out several weeks on account of illness; also Estill Foster who had been with his mother several weeks at Santa Fe.

Preaching at Union Chapel church next Saturday and Sunday.

R. B. Stevens, who has been sick, is able to be out.

Pauline, the 8-months old baby of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Stephens, is still sick.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Crum visited Mr. and Mrs. Sharp at Santa Fe Sunday.

The teacher and several scholars from our school attended the box supper at Eller school Friday night.

Dewey Franklin and G. A. Watts made a trip to Farber Sunday in Dewey's car.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Buckner and daughter and Mr. Hoxsey were out Monday afternoon to inspect the new barn being built by Mr. Buckner.

The roads over the district are being put in good order.

Heck Franklin marketed four 200 pound hogs at 9 1-2 cents.

John Pasley sold a bunch of stock hogs to Roy Kettle at 9 cents per pound.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Watts, Oct. 26, a fine boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Walker have bought a place in West Mexico and will make their home there.

## HIGH HILL DISTRICT.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Pullis and brothers visited near Halsville Sunday.

J. O. Sims went to Moberly Saturday to visit his children, Emmett Sims and wife.

Elmer Shock sold 28 fat hogs last week that averaged 227 1-2 lbs. @ \$9.65.

E. P. Pullis and family visited in Centralia recently.

Mrs. Brutus Parks' sister of New Hope neighborhood is very sick at Mrs. Parks'.

Mrs. Ray Wright and sister, Nannie Pullis of Mexico, visited the Gant School Friday.

Bill Sims and brother are hauling oats to Centralia. They have sold 1,000 bushels, getting 45 cents per bushel.

Mrs. J. M. Pullis is on the sick list. Bob Farmer and family visited Elzea Pullis' Sunday.

W. D. Pullis of Centralia is in a protracted meeting at Harrisburg, Mo. Rev. Robinson of Salem, Mo., is assisting him.

Died, on the 23rd ult., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Sims, near Gant, Grandma Ridgeway. She was 95 years old; was a grand old mother. Also the same week Uncle Billy Riggs died at the home of his son, Jesse Riggs. Uncle Billy was well known and had many friends. He was very old, and was a good man. We deeply sympathize with all the relatives in their bereavement.

## MARRIED IN MEXICO.

Mr. Warner Covington and Miss Louise Middleton, both of Fulton, were united in marriage in Mexico Monday, Justice R. B. Hooton officiating.

D. Hoover is a new Message subscriber.

The 8-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuel Stephens, living in the Jackson neighborhood, is quite ill. The child fell a few days ago and it is feared a collar-bone is broken and possibly other injuries.

## BERREY-LOBDELL

Mexico Boy Harvested Wheat in Kansas and Found a Wife—Now a Noted Editor in the West.

Mr. Gervais Berrey and Miss Gertrude Lobdell were married in Washington, D. C., last Sunday. Mr. Berrey is the son Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Berrey of Mexico. He is now editing a daily paper at Chico, Calif., and is meeting with fine success.

A few years ago he was a school boy in the Mexico schools and one summer he with several other school chums went to Great Bend, Kansas, to work in the wheat fields. Work for the boys was found by Judge C. E. Lobdell, who is now a member of the Federal Land Bank Commission. Judge Lobdell had a charming daughter, Young Berrey spied her, and—got her. As stated above, that girl is now his wife. They arrived in Mexico Monday for a short visit with the groom's parents here. Many friends met them and expressed congratulations and best wishes.

## THOMPSON LETTER.

Thompson, Mo., Oct. 30.—Balmly weather.

Mrs. Hiram Ferguson continues very ill.

Farmers have begun gathering corn.

Hugh Dempsey bot five shoats from Ferguson.

Ritter brothers shipped two car loads of cattle to St. Louis last week. James Beatty shipped three steer calves with them.

W. H. Blythe sold Wheeler Gant two wagon loads of fat hogs last week.

W. H. Dempsey sold Lee & Muir one mule for \$135.

Ben Spencer sold a calf to Lawrence McCarty, delivered at Centralia Monday.

The Sunday School Convention at Salt River Church Sunday was largely attended. A bountiful spread was served at the noon hour. Quite a number of churches were represented. Had several fine talks on Sunday School work.

Mr. Frank Beatty, Mrs. Nannie Casey and Mr. and Mrs. Will Brown, of Blackwell, Okla., are visiting friends and relatives in this vicinity.

Phil Ecton, who has been in Colorado for the last two months for his health, returned home last week.

Friends and neighbors surprised Will Riggs Sunday the 22 with a big birthday dinner. About 35 present and all report an enjoyable time.

The Knights and Ladies of Security gave an oyster supper at Gant Friday night.

The St. Louis brewers are claiming that if the Third proposed Constitutional Amendment is adopted for this State at the polls next Tuesday it will bring about a condition equal to Single Tax. That's to scare the farmers. See? The brewers say, according to authorities of both the wets and dries, about eleven million dollars of the State's revenues. On the other hand, it is shown that their business causes over thirteen million dollars in criminal costs; which the farmers are helping to pay, and always have helped to pay. In view of this, wouldn't we better have the kind of single tax the farmers object to? Seems to us the State would come off every year a million or two dollars ahead, and then some.

Rev. W. H. Hook at Hunter, Mo., sends a remittance for The Message and adds the following postscript: "I am for Wilson for president and Gardner for Governor and don't care much who else is defeated. I still live, raise God." Hook always was an independent, happy-go fellow.

Next week will be State Sunday School week in "extco. Distinguished speakers will be here from all parts of the country.

## TO THE VOTERS OF AUDRAIN COUNTY

I am a candidate upon the Republican ticket for Sheriff of Audrain county and earnestly solicit the vote and support of every citizen. If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I pledge myself to assist in the strict enforcement of ALL laws.

My platform is ECONOMY and EFFICIENCY in OFFICE and a faithful performance of my duty, without regard to party affiliation. If my name does not appear on your ticket you may write it thereon in strict accordance with the Law.

Yours truly,  
E. R. TAYLOR.